



The Holy Father's Message (extract)

REACH OUT

Extract from Papal Message for Mission Sunday 2009

1. **Mission Sunday**

On Mission Sunday, I encourage each member of the People of God to seek a deeper involvement in the missionary mandate of Christ, to 'make disciples of all peoples.' This effort to proclaim the Gospel to the people of today is a service rendered both to the Christian community and the whole of humanity.

2. **A primary duty**

The mission of the Church is to 'infect' all peoples with hope. This is why Christ calls, sanctifies and sends his disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God. To announce the Gospel must be for us, as it was for the apostle Paul, a primary and impelling duty. It is the desire of the Church to transform the world with the proclamation of the Gospel of love, and to bring the light of God into this world.

3. **Mission is essential**

Missionary impulse has always been the sign of the vitality of a Church. Each Church must be committed to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth. I wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelising all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. At stake is the eternal salvation of all people. I remind all Churches, both ancient and those recently founded, that they should be the salt of the earth and the light of the world called to spread Christ, the light of the nations, to the far corners of the earth. This mission must be a priority in their pastoral programming.

Continued overleaf

MISSIO Scotland; the Church in Mission

4. Persecution

Many missionaries bear witness to and spread the Kingdom of God in difficult situations, ranging from social discrimination to prison, torture, and even death. In this, they walk the same path and suffer the same destiny as Christ did in his mission.

5. The Pontifical Mission Societies

I thank the Pontifical Mission Societies for their indispensable service in inspiring and promoting involvement in the missionary activity of the Church. I thank them for their financial assistance to the Young Churches. They help to realise in a practical way the communion between Churches and the concern they should have for one another.

6. Prayer and finance

Pray that the Church will always have passion for the mission to spread the Kingdom of God. Pray for missionaries on the front line of evangelisation, often in difficult and hostile situations. Please give financial assistance to the Young Churches especially in difficult economic times.

7. Mary

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who brought Christ into the world to be the light of the nations, guide our missionary activity.

Pope Benedict XVI

